

To: Burdick, Melanie[Burdick.Melanie@epa.gov]
From: Wilson, Kristina (DEQ)
Sent: Thur 3/31/2016 6:39:53 PM
Subject: RE: Back 40 Correction Request Response
[Photo Album - Preservation Area.pdf](#)

Hello Melanie.

It is unfortunate that a trip to the Back 40 site may not fit into your department's travel budget. I was hoping that I would finally get an opportunity to meet you in person and to get your perspectives on the site, preservation area, and proposed project. I happily extend you a place to stay if that would assist with your ability to travel. I typically stay at our family cabin near Rapid River when I work multiple days in Menominee County. It is equipped with modern amenities and nestled in the Hiawatha Forest on a Wild and Scenic River. In my opinion, it is far preferable to another night at the Holiday Inn Express.

If a site visit is not an option, let me know if there is any specific documentation that would assist your review. I was out to the site twice last season and visited a portion of the proposed preservation site in October (photos attached). There are a couple areas that I would like to spend some time at looking for evidence of connectivity. Specifically, WL-40 may be connected to the wetland complex on the Northern adjacent property owned by Mr. Boerner. At the time of my site visit last fall, we did not have permission to access his property. We did spend quite a bit of time looking for connectivity between WL-2c and WL-2b, and I asked the consultant to provide multiple data points between two wetland boundaries, which they did. The data points were consistent with our field observations that the wetlands were not connected; however, I want to review the area again this spring to look at drainage patterns.

At the time of my visit, Aquila was proposing 2.1 acres of impact and the preservation area was limited to the floodplain forest along the Menominee. The response to the Correction Request revises the application to 14.69 acres of wetland impact which will include other wetland habitat types within the parcel. There is an existing roadway through the preservation area that impacts the floodplain forest. Additionally, there are a few failed culverts and some stream entrenchment that was observed. There are some great opportunities for restoration on the site that I would like to identify during the visit this spring.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to assist with your review of this project.

Kristi Wilson

DEQ, Water Resources Division

1504 W Washington Street

Marquette, MI 49855

906-236-0380

From: Burdick, Melanie [mailto:Burdick.Melanie@epa.gov]

Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2016 12:48 PM

To: Wilson, Kristina (DEQ) <WilsonK17@michigan.gov>

Subject: RE: Back 40 Correction Request Response

Thanks Kristi,

I was able to download the document.

I would love to see the preservation site, but my supervisor doesn't think we will have the travel budget for it. Please take pictures and let me know what you think. I have already seen the impact site but it would be nice to go now that we have a site plan.

-Melanie

From: Wilson, Kristina (DEQ) [mailto:WilsonK17@michigan.gov]

Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2016 9:33 AM

To: Burdick, Melanie <Burdick.Melanie@epa.gov>

Subject: Back 40 Correction Request Response

Good morning Melanie.

I wanted to let you know that I received a response to the Correction Request for Aquila's application for the Back 40 Project yesterday. On my initial review of the response, it appears that the majority of the information that I requested has been addressed. I have uploaded and published the response in MiWaters and the document can be accessed here;

<https://miwaters.deq.state.mi.us/nsite/#?tab=profile&h=966&w=1836&dh=7.549933610142396&dw=19.9621575.67864289705093&bbox%5B%5D=40.75235940242497&bbox%5B%5D=-95.6408011029489&tb=48.30229301256737&bb=40.75235940242497&rb=-75.67864289705093&lb=-95.6408011029489&z=7&c%5Bx%5D=-85.659722&c%5By%5D=44.65&i=true&b=Street&a=back+&q=back+&s=c97257f3-fd50-48ec-b0ee-458ef6a981e2&p=true>

The response is saved as JPA Correction Request Response v2 (1).pdf.

I am going to schedule a field day or two, likely in early to mid-May, to review the site and proposed preservation area. Would you be interested in joining me for the site inspection?

Regards,

Kristi Wilson

DEQ, Water Resources Division

1504 W Washington Street

Marquette, MI 49855

906-236-0380